



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR ISSUES CIRCULAR ON FISH AND WILDLIFE ON SMALL WATERSHEDS

Better public hunting and fishing can be achieved on small watershed projects through the use of the Government cost-sharing plan approved by Congress, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today in announcing the issuance of a circular by the Department of the Interior on the subject.

The original purpose of the small watershed program was for the Federal Government, acting through the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, to help farmers on small watersheds reduce erosion through the control and management of flood waters. To encourage the enhancement of the fish and wildlife resources on small watersheds, the Congress enacted the Small Watershed Act in 1958 to provide cost-sharing assistance for wildlife improvement measures.

Under the cost-sharing plan the Federal Government will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of installing eligible fish and wildlife developments, provided that public access is guaranteed. The remainder of the fish and wildlife cost may come from the project sponsors, the State fish and game agency, local sportsmen or other non-Federal groups. Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the State fish and game agency are available to make preliminary studies, and recommendations for fish and wildlife during the planning or construction of small watershed projects.

The new 12-page illustrated circular explains the types of development which are eligible for Federal cost-sharing. These include enlarging floodwater detention reservoirs for fishing lakes or waterfowl management areas; enlarging reservoirs to permit release of water for downstream benefits to fish or game; construction of reservoirs solely for fish and wildlife purposes as an integral part of the watershed project; modification of structures to permit fish and wildlife management; construction of fish shelters and fish ladders; improvement of stream banks or stream channels for fishery purposes, and construction of water catchments in arid regions to provide water for quail or other wildlife during critical periods.

"Better Hunting and Fishing on Small Watershed Projects", Circular 100 is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 10 cents.

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